



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447

Dear Colleagues:

Child abuse is a national tragedy, taking the lives of three children every day and affecting millions of children and families every year. We need to work together to help strengthen and support families so that we can prevent such tragedies from occurring. The Administration for Children and Families is committed to supporting families by promoting policies that help strengthen the institution of marriage and help parents rear their children in positive and healthy environments. Each April, Child Abuse Prevention Month activities raise awareness about the problem of child abuse – and most importantly, about what each of us can do to help prevent the abuse and neglect of our Nation's children.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, worked with its National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information and partnered with Prevent Child Abuse America to develop this community resource packet to promote child abuse prevention activities in April and throughout the year. These materials also were developed with the valuable input of child abuse prevention organizations around the country, especially Family Support America, the FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Family Resource and Support Programs, Healthy Families America, National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds, National Exchange Club Foundation for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Parents Anonymous Inc., and the National Indian Child Welfare Association.

This packet, "Gateways to Prevention," describes the many strategies individuals and organizations can use to help raise awareness of this issue and promote positive parenting. It is our desire to mobilize everyone in a community to seek a gateway through which they can help protect children and support families. To that end, this packet includes materials and resources to support your community's unique local efforts. Materials in this packet include:

- **Child Abuse Prevention: An Overview.** Definitions and statistics on child abuse and neglect; why prevention is key to addressing the problem.
- **What Organizations Can Do.** Suggested child abuse prevention activities and supporting materials, including resources for working with the media.
- **What Individuals Can Do.** Information about what individuals can do to prevent child abuse and neglect, how to recognize and report suspected maltreatment, and tips to help foster positive parenting.
- **Resource Directory.** Information on national organizations that are working with their State and local chapters to prevent child abuse and organizations that can provide technical assistance.
- **Poster.** Lists five strategies for helping individuals better understand the role they play in child abuse prevention.

These materials are designed for reproduction and distribution throughout your community to help spread the word that everyone has a role to play in preventing child abuse and neglect. Materials in this packet also are available online at <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/topics/prevention>.

Child abuse prevention activities reaffirm our belief in the American spirit and its power to bring renewed energy and commitment to securing the future of our Nation's children and families. Thank you for participating in this effort.

Sincerely,

Susan Orr, Ph.D.
Associate Commissioner
Children's Bureau
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services